AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (currently amended)   A   method   for   retrieving   digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:

generating a message to said network node by a client application executing on a digital multimedia device, said message containing at least one ~~of a~~ multidimensional pointer to a _media clip in a_ depository of digital multimedia content associated with said network node_, a relative time offset within said media clip,_ and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said message is to ~~take effect~~ _be satisfied_ by said network node; and

transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by said network~~-s~~ node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said transferring commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

2.   (original) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said message generated by said client application comprises a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY message that includes said multidimensional pointer in a range header of said message.

3.   (original) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said depository of digital multimedia content is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective media identifier dimensions of said multidimensional pointer.

4.   (original) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 3, wherein a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator.

5. (original) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 4, wherein said at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset within said media clip.

6. (currently amended) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device accesses said network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, ~~and~~ or a cable network.

7. (currently amended) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital music players, digital video players, computers ~~and~~, or handheld communication devices enabled to accept streaming media.

8. (currently amended) The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said timing parameter ~~is used to identify when said message is to be satisfied by said network node and~~ is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

9. (currently amended) A system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:
    means associated with a client application executing on a digital multimedia device for generating a message to said network node, said message containing at least one ~~of a~~ multidimensional pointer to a media clip in a depository of digital multimedia content associated with said network node, a relative time offset within said media clip, and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said message is to ~~take effect~~ be satisfied by said network node; and
    means for transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by said network node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said transferring commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

10.   (original) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said message generated by said client application comprises a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY message that includes said multidimensional pointer in a range header of said message.

11.   (original) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said depository of digital multimedia content is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels that correspond to respective media identifier dimensions of said multidimensional pointer.

12.   (original) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 11, wherein a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator.

13.   (original) The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 12, wherein said at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset within said media clip.

14.   (currently amended)   The   system   for   retrieving   digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device is operable to access said network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and or a cable network.

15.   (currently amended)   The   system   for   retrieving   digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital music players, digital video players, computers and, or handheld communication devices enabled to accept streaming media.

16.   (currently amended)   The   system   for   retrieving   digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 9, wherein said timing parameter ~~is used to identify when said message is to be satisfied by said network node and~~ is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

17.   (currently amended)   A digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:
        logic for generating a message to said network node by a client application executing on said digital multimedia device, said message containing at least one ~~of a~~ multidimensional pointer to a <u>media clip in a</u> depository of digital multimedia content associated with said network node<u>, a relative time offset within said media clip,</u> and a timing parameter operable to indicate when said message is to ~~take effect~~ <u>be satisfied by said network node</u>; and
        a player engine operable to play back streaming content from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer, said streaming content commencing at a time indicated responsive to said timing parameter.

18.   (original) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said message comprises a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY message that includes said multidimensional pointer in a range header of said message.

19.   (original) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said multidimensional pointer includes a plurality of media identifier dimensions that correspond to a plurality of nested hierarchical levels into which said depository of digital multimedia content is organized.

20.   (original) The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 19, wherein a first level of said plurality of media identifier dimensions comprises a uniform resource locator identifying a server-side playlist.

21.   (currently amended)   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 20, wherein a second level of said plurality of media identifier dimensions comprises at least one of a media source identifier for identifying a particular media clip within said server-side playlist ~~and~~ or another server-side playlist identifier.

22.   (currently amended)   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim ~~21~~ 17, wherein said multidimensional pointer includes ~~a~~ the relative time offset within said ~~particular~~ media clip.

23.   (currently amended)   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for accessing said network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, ~~and~~ or a cable network.

24.   (currently amended)   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said timing parameter ~~is used to identify when said message is to be satisfied by said network node and~~ is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.